



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

QM21/0222

CRAINE ASSOCIATES INC
400 112TH AVENUE NE
SUITE 140
BELLEVUE, WA 98004

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/167,090	10/05/98	003	ARYANPOUR, M	3711 02/22/00
First Named Applicant	OBLACK,	MARK		

TITLE OF INVENTION: BALL THROWING APPARATUS AND METHOD

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEES DUE	DATE DUE
3 OBLM-101	273-317.000	152	UTILITY	YES	\$605.00	05/22/00

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT.
PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS
APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

- I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.
 - If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:
 - A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
 - B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.
 - If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:
 - A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
 - B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.
- II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.
- III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/167,090

Applicant(s)

Mary Oblack

Examiner

Mitra Aryanpour

Group Art Unit

3711



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

This communication is responsive to 1/27/2000

The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1, 3 and 5 (new claims 1-3)

The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
 received.
 received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
 received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.
 including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 9.
 including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
 Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____
 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
 Interview Summary, PTO-413
 Examiner's Amendment/Comment
 Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
 Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Sebastiano Passaniti
Primary Examiner

Art Unit: 3711

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1, 3 and 5 are allowable over the prior art of record because it would have not been obvious to modify the prior art to claim in combination a ball throwing apparatus with an elongated shaft, a half-spherical structure integrally formed on the distal end of the elongated shaft and having an opening capable of snap-fitting and engaging a ball while holding the proximal end of the elongated shaft, wherein the opening is aligned approximately 5 degrees forward and approximately 33 degrees behind the longitudinal axis of the elongated shaft, furthermore, the half-spherical structure is capable of releasing the ball when the elongated shaft is held near the proximal end and swung in a forward, circular path; claim 5 is a method of playing a game of fetch with the ball throwing apparatus. In view of the above teachings the claimed invention is allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3711

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mitra Aryanpour whose telephone number is (703) 308-3550. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeanette Chapman, can be reached on (703) 308-1310. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1148.

MA

February 17, 2000



Sebastiano Passaniti
Primary Examiner